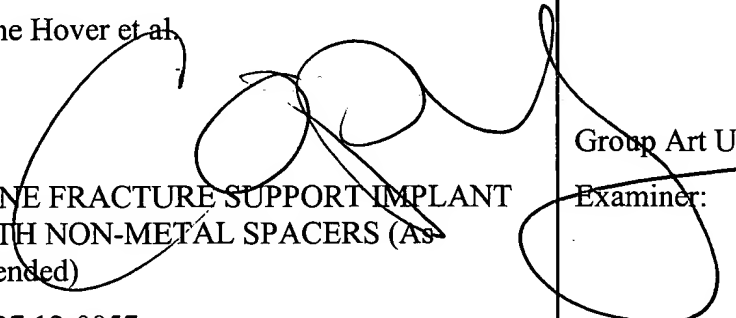


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor	: Anne Hover et al.		Group Art Unit:
Appln. No.	:		Examiner:
Filed	:		
Title	: BONE FRACTURE SUPPORT IMPLANT WITH NON-METAL SPACERS (As amended)		
Docket No.	: A227.12-0057		

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box Non-Fee Amendment
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

I CERTIFY THAT THIS PAPER IS BEING SENT BY U.S. MAIL, FIRST CLASS, TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231, THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2001

PATENT ATTORNEY

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE TITLE

Please amend the title to read --BONE FRACTURE SUPPORT IMPLANT WITH NON-METAL SPACERS--.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Replace the paragraph at page 1, line 4, with the following:

--The present application is a continuation of application number 09/289,324, filed April 9, 1999 and entitled INTRAMEDULLARY NAIL WITH NON-METAL SPACERS, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,XXX,XXX.--

09/289,324